

I urge the FCC not to alter the current rules regarding cross ownership of newspapers and other broadcast media as well as leaving in place the restrictions on the number of broadcast outlets a company may own in any one market.

In a free country like the United States it is vital that the citizenship have available to them multiple independent sources of information in order to make informed decisions about their community and country. The FCC rules currently in place act as a set of brakes on the consolidation of those sources.

As more and more local media outlets are being run by national companies, local affairs are covered less and less and national events covered more and more. This is an alarming trend in a country where the power is supposed to be with the individual in a community and not with the federal government.

In a recent CNN poll, 96% of the respondents stated they were very concerned about the consolidation of media ownership. That is one of the widest margins in the polling history of CNN. And for good reason. The relaxing of current rules is being made at the request of a handful of national media companies and associations and not at the request of the citizens of the United States. It is the citizenship that the FCC should be striving to serve.

Given the high concern of the US population regarding consolidation of media ownership, rather than relaxing the rules, I would highly urge you to study restricting further the current rules.